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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

12. (currently amended) A method for ~~generating a new catalytic activity in an enzyme,~~  
comprising the steps of altering the substrate specificity of enzymes selected from the  
group consisting of lipases, esterases, nitrilases and phytases, which comprises carrying  
out the following steps:
- a) introducing a DNA sequence coding for the ~~enzyme~~ enzymes into the *Escherichia coli*  
strain XL1-Red or into a functional derivative thereof, ~~which is also an E. coli~~  
strain carrying contain the genetic markers relA1, mutS, mutT and mutD5 ~~and~~  
having an increased mutation rate,
  - b) incubating the transformed *Escherichia coli* strain XL1-Red or its functional derivative  
to generate mutations in the ~~DNA sequence~~ enzyme gene,
  - c) transferring the mutated DNA sequence from the ~~transformed Escherichia coli~~ strain  
XL1-Red or its functional derivative to a microorganism, which has no enzyme  
activity which would impede selection,
  - d) incubating this microorganism to detect the ~~new catalytic~~ enzyme activity on or in at  
least one selection medium which comprises at least one enzyme substrate which  
makes it possible to recognize the ~~newly generated catalytic activity in the~~  
enzyme an altered substrate specificity of the enzyme, with or without ~~other~~  
additional indicator substances, ~~and~~
  - e) selecting the microorganisms which show ~~the newly generated catalytic activity, said~~  
~~microorganisms in steps c), d) and e) being a member selected from the group~~  
~~consisting of bacteria, fungi and yeasts~~ an alteration in the substrate specificity,  
wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of lipases, amidases, nitrilases,  
~~ether hydrolases, peroxidases, glycosidases and phytases~~ alteration in the substrate  
specificity leads to a stereoselective enzymatic activity.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is a lipase.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is an amidase.

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15. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is a nitrilase.
16. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is an ether hydrolase.
17. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is a peroxidase.
18. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is a glycosidase.
19. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is a phytase.
20. (cancelled).
21. (cancelled).
22. (cancelled).
23. (cancelled).
24. (cancelled).
25. (cancelled).
26. (cancelled).
27. (cancelled).